

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s) : Masakatsu MASAKI et al.

Serial No : 09/982,035 Group Art Unit: 1734

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For : WORKPIECE PROCESSING APPARATUS AND METHODS

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated July 28, 2006, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the following amendments and remarks.

Amendments to the **Claims** as pending are included beginning on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 13 of this paper.